

WHITE HOUSE
FAITH-BASED
AND
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES

COMPASSION IN ACTION

ROUNDTABLE

*Faith and Community
Solutions for Orphans
and Vulnerable Children*



Program Overview

November 2007

INTRODUCTION

COMPASSION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

In January 2007, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) launched a series of monthly Compassion in Action Roundtable meetings to highlight organizations, programs and policies addressing critical social needs. The roundtables convene and facilitate discussion between policymakers, government officials, philanthropists, and faith-based and community service providers around targeted issues.

The events reveal the President's Initiative as a broad-based, community - centered reform agenda, showcase innovative projects and promising practices, and draw attention to government efforts to expand and support the work of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) actively engaged in serving their neighbors and communities.

The plight of children that live without the care and support of a family is as critical as it is complex. An estimated 143 million children face the world as orphans

today. In the U.S. alone more than 500,000 children live in our foster care system, and approximately 130,000 of them are waiting to be adopted. Without parents, children are often deprived of the love and protection they need and are often susceptible to abuse, illness, poverty and other injustices.

President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative flows from the conviction that the most effective way to address our communities' great needs is to draw upon the unique strengths of every willing community and faith-based partner. At the vanguard of efforts to care for orphans, foster children and other vulnerable youth are community nonprofits, faith-based groups and other dedicated service organizations. Any serious effort to address the great needs of our day must recognize these organizations as necessary and invaluable allies.

FAITH AND COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR ORPHANS
AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

COMPASSION
IN ACTION
ROUNDTABLE

NOVEMBER 16, 2007
9:30 AM - 11:45 AM

- 9:30 - 9:40** **Welcome**
Jedd Medefind, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
- 9:40 - 9:50** **Keynote**
Eduardo Verástegui, Actor, Producer and Adoption Advocate
"Bella" and Metanoia Films
- 9:50 - 10:00** **Why Faith-Based and Community Collaborations are Vital**
Dr. Sharen Ford, President, National Association of State Adoption Programs (NASAP) and
Manager for Permanency Services for the State of Colorado Department of Human Services
in the Division of Child Welfare Services.
- 10:00 - 10:30** **Panel I: Innovative Partnerships for Children without Families in the U.S.**
Moderator: Rita Soronen, Executive Director, Dave Thomas
Foundation for Adoption

Chris Padbury, Executive Director, Project 1.27

Marc Andreas, Vice President of Marketing, Bethany Christian Services

Tom Lukasik, Executive Director, 4Kids of South Florida

Paul Pennington, Executive Director, Hope for Orphans at FamilyLife Today
Chairman, Christian Alliance for Orphans
- 10:30 - 10:45** **Federal Efforts on Behalf of Children Without Families**
Dan Schneider, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AdoptUsKids
The Long Family
Melissa Pardue, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy at the
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- 10:45 - 10:50** **President's Volunteer Service Award**
Cooper Family
Presented by Henry Lozano, Deputy Assistant to the President and
Director of USA Freedom

10:50 - 11:20

Panel II: Caring for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Internationally

Moderator: Ken Yamashita, Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS, Bureau for Global Health, United States Agency for International Development; Special Advisor for Assistance to Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children

Julius Coles, President, Africare

Deborah Dortzbach, Director of Health and Social Development, World Relief

Patrick Tuttle, Board Member, All Kids Can Learn International

Brian Luwis, CEO, America World Adoption Association

11:20 - 11:35

First-Hand Reflections on International Adoption and Orphan Care

Marta Gabre-Tsadick, Executive Director, Project Mercy

Sophia Ramirez, Daughter of Carlos and Stephanie Ramirez, Featured Family

11:35 - 11:45

Closing Remarks

Jedd Medefind, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

FBCI SNAPSHOTS: PUBLIC/PRIVATE EFFORTS TO ASSIST ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

4Kids of South Florida

In 1997, the pastors and leadership of Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale established a foster care ministry that became 4KIDS of South Florida, Inc. Now ten years later, through a unique affiliation of community and business leaders partnering with over 173 local churches, 4KIDS' mandate is to provide a consistent continuum of care and support for these most vulnerable members of our community. Our mission is to provide for a child or young adult from the moment they enter the foster care system until he or she is in a permanent environment.

Protection- Every day in South Florida, an average of 9-12 children are removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. Until 2000, children taken into foster care would sit in offices listening as caseworkers attempted to secure them appropriate housing. Today, every child taken into foster care in Broward County is brought to SafePlace 4KIDS. This innovative assessment center, pioneered and operated by 4KIDS, provides a place of safety in a colorful, home-like environment until an appropriate placement is arranged.

Provision- Children need a family. 4KIDS utilizes a network of qualified foster parents to provide a supportive and stable family environment to children starved for constancy and encouragement. 4KIDS offers family support and practical assistance with respite care, babysitting, and a variety of special events, geared specifically to the needs of foster children and their families. Out of a conviction that foster children unable to be placed with a foster family are best served in a family-style home as part of a neighborhood, 4KIDS has established several family-style homes for teenagers and hard-to-place sibling groups. In Florida, an average of 13% of the children in foster care are moved more than three times within a year. With 4KIDS, that number drops to less than 1%. Severe neglect, including failure to provide basic nutrition, is the most com-

mon reason that children enter foster care. Last year, 4KIDS' foster care programs served more than 115,000 nutritionally balanced meals.

Permanent Solutions- 4KIDS' commitment to achieving permanent solutions for children in foster care encompasses re-unification with biological parents (when appropriate), adoption if parental rights are terminated by the court, and independent living programs if the young adult reaches 18 while still in foster care. Recognizing that many of the factors that will lead to a child being taken into foster care exist from conception, His Caring Place, a maternity and after-care home for women experiencing a crisis pregnancy, was added to the 4KIDS ministries. Adoption 4KIDS was established to provide couples with lifesaving information regarding their choices and options when facing an unplanned pregnancy. For more information visit www.4KIDSofsf.org.

Africare

Africare works to improve the quality of life in Africa and works in partnership with African communities to achieve healthy and productive societies. Africare's approach places communities at the center of development activities. Africare believes that only through strong communities can Africa feed itself, appropriately exploit its natural resources, educate, care and protect its children, promote the economic well being of African people and live in peace.

Over the course of its history, Africare has become a leader among private, charitable U.S. organizations assisting Africa. It is the oldest and largest African-American organization in the field. And Africa is Africare's specialty.

- Africare's programs address needs in two principal areas: *health and HIV/AIDS as well as food security and agriculture*. Africare also supports emergency humanitarian aid, water resource development, environmental management, literacy and vocational

training, microenterprise development, civil-society development and governance initiatives.

- Africare now reaches families and communities in some 25 countries in every major region of Sub-Saharan Africa, from Senegal to South Africa and from Chad to Mozambique.
- Since its founding in 1970, Africare has delivered more than \$675 million in assistance — over 2,000 projects — to 36 countries Africa-wide.
- Africare was created by Africans and Americans, working as partners. Africare's financial support comes from one of the most diverse donor bases in the charitable world.

A special area of concern today is the AIDS crisis. Every minute, another African child dies of AIDS. Millions of African children are AIDS orphans. To learn more visit www.africare.org.

All Kids Can Learn International

All Kids Can Learn International works with local African and U.S. churches, ministries, and Christians with a call to rescue parentless children. It collaborates with an international network of Evangelical faith-based organizations, the business community, humanitarian groups, and governmental agencies to gather resources to enable the creation of children's homes, schools, vocational training programs, and the economic opportunities for these children to grow to productive adulthood, strengthening their own nations.

In order to fulfill this mission, they are establishing "Villages of Hope"— replicable and scalable, planned Christian family communities for Zambian AIDS orphans, established on large, productive agricultural farm sites. Each farming location will provide the food needed for the resident children, as well as the setting for ongoing commercial agricultural production and vocational training for selected orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC). Each children's village is designed to first, re-

lieve the suffering of OVC through providing a Christian family environment; and, second, to nurture, raise, and train a whole new generation of Zambian children to become citizens and leaders who will impact their culture and future generations for Jesus Christ.

The Villages of Hope are designed to be models, which will be reproduced throughout Africa to ultimately rescue tens of thousands of children orphaned through the AIDS pandemic. These settings will be used to train other organizations and indigenous churches in how to establish and operate effective homes for African orphans.

AmericaWorld

America World Adoption is a Christian based, non-profit adoption agency dedicated to building families according to God's design of adoption. Having been founded by adoptive parents, our organization is run with the adoptive family at heart, and we know the importance of serving and caring for our families. We have helped thousands of families and have personal, dependable and experienced staff ready to walk through the entire adoption process with you. America World is an international adoption agency and has adoption programs in China, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Please visit us today at www.awaa.org or call us at 888-ONE-CHILD.

Bethany Christian Services

With more than 70 locations in 32 states, Bethany Christian Services is the largest adoption agency in the U.S. In 2006, 1,416 children were adopted through the agency. Bethany is a Christ-centered, not-for-profit, pro-life, adoption and family services agency with ministries in over a dozen countries. Bethany is also one of the nation's largest private foster care agencies, serving more than a thousand children in 10 states. In addition to domestic, international, embryo, and older child adoption services, Bethany provides pregnancy counseling services, child sponsorship, refugee services, and

an infertility ministry called Stepping Stones. Bethany is a proud partner with local, state, and federal governments and has received grants totaling more than \$20 million annually. Bethany was founded in 1944 and is headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

FamilyLife, Hope for Orphans

FamilyLife's Hope for Orphans® exists to help evangelical churches and families to help orphans. We provide resources on church orphans ministry, adoption, and foster care that are both biblical and practical. Hope for Orphans works to introduce constituents to great orphan care organizations, adoption agencies, and church orphans ministries that can help Christians and their churches do all that God has called them to do. Hope for Orphans is also a leader in the Christian Alliance for Orphans and the Cry of the Orphan national awareness campaign.

FamilyLife's Hope for Orphans is a ministry of FamilyLife. FamilyLife is a subsidiary of Campus Crusade for Christ. For more information visit www.hopefororphans.com.

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a non-profit 501(c)3 public charity dedicated to dramatically increasing the number of adoptions of children from foster care in North America. Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's, established the Foundation in 1992. Created by Wendy's founder, Dave Thomas, who was adopted as a child, the Foundation leads signature national service programs like Wendy's Wonderful Kids, Adoption-Friendly Workplace, National Adoption Awareness Month activities, national public service announcements and poster campaigns, *A Child is Waiting: A Beginner's Guide to Adoption*, and National Adoption Day, the Foundation raises national awareness about the need for adoptive families for foster care children. In addition, the Foundation awards grants to adoption organizations in the United States and Canada that

aggressively move children from foster care to adoptive homes. During its 15-year history, the Foundation has impacted the adoptions of thousands of children out of foster care. For comprehensive information about Foundation programs, visit our website at www.DaveThomasFoundationforAdoption.org, or call us at 1.800.ASK.DTFA.

Project 1.27

Project 1.27 is a state wide initiative working successfully to empty the pool of waiting children in Colorado foster care by the year 2014. Project 1.27's innovative "Adoption Track" program consists of recruitment, training and support for an entire team: adoptive families, churches, support team members, counties, agencies, and sponsors. Imagine a program where the adoptive family does not walk the road alone! Project 1.27 provides: 1) Administrative support and streamlining of adoption paperwork. 2) State-certified, Christian-based parent training in a church. 3) Family support groups and resources. 4) Training for friends and family. 5) Partnerships with other adoption/foster resources. 6) Assistance in establishing adoption support ministries in parents' home churches. With the Body of Christ, there should be no waiting children in Colorado foster care.

Project Mercy

Project Mercy is an International Emergency Relief and Community Development Ministry established by Marta Gabre-Tsadick, Executive Director, her husband, Demeke Tekle-Wold, and two dear friends, Rev. Charles and Fran Dickinson, in 1977. Based in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Project Mercy is a registered 501 (c) (3) organization under the leadership of a 7-person board.

For nearly two decades, Project Mercy provided emergency relief aid and refugee resettlement and educational assistance in seven African countries. Support was also extended to help provide support for refugee pastors and evangelists in Djibouti and Sudan.

In 1991, Project Mercy expanded its focus to include community development and self-help programs in south central Ethiopia. The elders of Ytebon, Meskan Woreda of the Gurage Zone, invited Project Mercy to assist their community in developing a school, health care services and improved agriculture. They donated 52 acres of land in partnership with Project Mercy for this development program.

Within the past 13 years, Project Mercy's focus has been expanded to include community development and self-help programs in Ytebon, Ethiopia; and most recently, care for orphans of HIV/AIDS victims.

Metanoia Films: "Bella"

BELLA THE MOVIE is currently in theaters nationwide. BELLA was honored by the National Council for Adoption for its heartwarming portrayal of family and the beauty of adoption.

An international soccer star (Eduardo Verástegui) is on his way to sign a multi-million dollar contract when something happens that brings his career to an abrupt end. Now a cook in his brother's restaurant, José retreats from the world until Nina (Tammy Blanchard), a beautiful waitress struggling to make it in New York City, discovers something about herself that she's unprepared for. In one irreversible moment, a simple act of kindness brings them together and turns an ordinary day into an unforgettable experience. Before the day is through, José must confront his own haunting past to show Nina how the healing power of love can help her embrace the future.

Inspired by true events, BELLA is a heartwarming story about friendship, family and our capacity for love in the face of the unexpected.

World Relief

World Relief is active in serving the church worldwide to alleviate suffering through HIV/AIDS, maternal child health, economic development, disaster response, and refugee and immigration services. The HIV/AIDS program, known as *Mobilizing for Life*, is a grassroots movement in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean that prepares families, churches, communities, and individuals to respond with compassion to persons affected by AIDS and to prevent the spread of HIV. Through local churches and networks across Africa, Cambodia, Haiti, and China, many thousands of children made vulnerable by AIDS are loved and supported, and are building their futures with the help of church-based tutoring and trade apprenticeship programs, regular visits and oversight by church and community members, and advocacy for children's rights. Our goal in Africa is to keep children in families and marshal strategic responses from *every church to every orphan* within a five kilometer radius of the church. One country of intervention, Mozambique, currently works with 34 pastors' networks and 3,400 volunteers to provide care for more than 20,707 children orphaned by AIDS.

Contact information: 7 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21202; 443-451-1900; www.worldrelief.org.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) was created in 1985 as a bicameral, bipartisan alliance of Members of Congress dedicated to improving adoption policy and practice, and to focusing public attention on the advantages of adoption. CCA is the largest bicameral bipartisan Congressional Caucus and currently has 212 Members. In order to support the work of the CCA and more effectively raise Congressional and public awareness about adoption, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) was created in 2001. Senator Mary Landrieu, Senator Norm Coleman, Congressman James Oberstar, and Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite currently serve as both the co-chairs of CCA and the Congressional directors of CCAI. CCAI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the tens of thousands of orphans and foster children in the United States and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes through adoption; and to eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right of a family. CCAI does not apply for or accept federal, state or local government funding. CCAI's Core Programs include Angels in Adoption™, the Congressional Foster Youth Internship, and the Congressional Resource Program. CCAI is one of six national partners for National Adoption Day which is Saturday, November 17, 2007.

Freddie Mac Foundation

Since 1992, the Freddie Mac Foundation has invested over \$35 million in efforts to find permanent, loving homes for America's foster children and to improve outcomes for those foster children who leave the system without families. The Foundation's signature program, Wednesday's Child, a media-based recruitment program, is operating in five major metropolitan areas and has helped to find adoptive homes for more than 1,300 hard to place foster children. The Foundation invests in adoption efforts that improve public policy, re-

cruit foster and adoptive homes, inform and strengthen practice, raise public awareness, and provide pre and post placement support services and, when adoption is not possible, assure that youth leaving the system have the opportunity to lead stable, productive lives. The Foundation is a proud founding sponsor of National Adoption Day, which since its inception in 2000, has celebrated the adoption of more than 20,000 foster children. Other signature programs include a traveling Heart Gallery featuring over 50 foster children from the Washington, DC region in need of adoptive homes and the Foundation's annual Adoption Expo providing free information and workshops to families interested in pursuing adoption.

In addition to its investments in foster care and adoption, the Freddie Mac Foundation also supports efforts to stabilize families through supportive housing, improve academic achievement of children and youth, and strengthen families in crisis. Since 1992, Freddie Mac and the Freddie Mac Foundation have invested over \$300 million to create hope and opportunity for children and their families.

Gladney Center for Adoption

For 120 years, The Gladney Center for Adoption has worked to - 1)prevent child abandonment, 2)reunify children with their birth or extended families, 3)ensure that vulnerable children are cared for in a safe and loving environment and 4)find permanent homes for the world's orphans.

Gladney is recognized as a world leader in adoption and child welfare. They participated in the Hague Convention on Private International Law in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, provide a voting member to the board of the National Council for Adoption and are a member of the U. S. Joint Council on International Children's Services. Gladney also provides training and assistance to caregivers, orphanage directors and government officials around the world to encourage child welfare change at a systemic level.

The Gladney Center for Adoption qualifies as a United States tax-exempt, non-profit organization under IRS code 501(c)(3).

National Council For Adoption

Founded in 1980, the National Council For Adoption (NCFA) is a research and advocacy nonprofit whose mission is to promote the well-being of children, birthparents, and adoptive families by advocating for the positive option of adoption. NCFA is dedicated to helping children find loving, permanent families through adoption by: reviving infant adoption in America, finding families for all children waiting to be adopted out of foster care, advancing a global culture of adoption and child welfare, promoting best practices in adoption services, and preserving and defending the first principles of adoption.

NCFA advances these goals by educating policy makers regarding pro-adoption laws including the Intercountry Adoption Act passed in 2000, the \$10,000 tax credit for adoption expenses in 2001, and the Adoption Safe Families Act in 1997. NCFA also provides strategic policy briefings to policy makers in all levels and branches of the government. In addition, NCFA informs and influences opinion leaders and public opinion through news releases, Op-Eds, PSAs, media outreach, and other proactive communication strategies.

Major national and international news media rely on NCFA as the authoritative nonprofit adoption information clearing house. A recent publication, *Adoption Factbook IV* and the Web site, **www.adoptioncouncil.org**, which receives more than 150,000 hits per month, are two examples of the comprehensive research provided by NCFA. With the launch of the online program, "Intercountry Adoption Journey" NCFA trains agencies and adoptive parents on the requirements of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. Through its Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program, NCFA also provides training to agencies and other adoption professionals on how to present adoption as a positive option to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Shaohannah's Hope, Inc.

Shaohannah's Hope, Inc. is a non-profit organization that aggressively engages adoption issues by both caring for orphans and raising awareness about adoption among the faith community. Founded by Grammy award-winning artist Stephen Curtis Chapman and his wife Mary Beth, Shaohannah's Hope tackles the adoption issue through three primary strategies that include financial assistance, adoption advocacy, and orphan care.

Through Shaohannah's Hope, financial grants are available to families to assist with adoption costs. To date, over 1400 financial grants have been awarded to families adopting children from China, Russia, US, Guatemala, Korea, Romania, India and certain countries in Africa. In addition, Shaohannah's Hope has started a "Church Adoption Network" that seeks to partner churches together in order to create adoption assistance funds for those within individual congregations who are seeking to adopt.

In 2005, Shaohannah's Hope launched **www.how-toadopt.org** as an instructional/educational tool to encourage couples to adopt and to challenge communities of faith to create and implement their own adoption initiatives.

Shaohannah's Hope also addresses many medical needs through their Mackenzie Fund, established to help fund surgeries for orphans with cleft lips and palates. Other orphan care initiatives include the New Hope Foundation, and Shaohannah's Hope Healing Home, two foster homes in China that provide housing and medical care for Chinese orphans.

FEDERAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

U.S. Agency for International Development

Recent data shows that over 14 million children have lost one or both parents to HIV/ AIDS. It is estimated that these numbers will almost double over the next 10 years. Millions more are living with parents who are ill or with families that must stretch scarce resources to care for them. An estimated 143 million children in the developing world have lost one or both parents, while an additional larger number of children are highly vulnerable. As such, they face serious risks to their survival and well-being.

In response to this growing crisis, President George W. Bush on November 8, 2005, signed into law the Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act (Public Law 109-95), landmark legislation requiring the U.S. Government (USG) to devise a single, comprehensive strategy for addressing critical needs among the developing world's highly vulnerable children.

In Fiscal Year 2006, USAID continued its commitment to reaching these children by providing over \$5 billion in funding to reach more than 135 million children with programs providing services for orphans and vulnerable children. USAID is currently funding more than 75 activities in 22 countries to help families and communities create and sustain a supportive environment for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

The needs of these children spring from disease, natural disaster, conflict and related emergencies, malnutrition and many other causes and can have a devastating impact on their lives. USAID activities include material support, such as food, school fees, shelter, and clothing, in addition to economic strengthening, counseling, psychological support, and community care. In fiscal year 2006 alone, the United States responded to 54 disasters in 39 countries affecting at least 79 million children. The United States also responded to conflict-related emergencies affecting more than 20 million children.

In particular, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) supports varied interventions to help families, communities and governments care for children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) is critical and PEPFAR programs include: caregiver training, support for access to education, economic support, targeted food and nutritional support, legal aid, medical care, psychological and emotional care, and other social and material support. In a March 2007 annual report, the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator noted that 2 million orphans received HIV/AIDS care and support in fiscal year 2006, up from 1.2 million orphans in fiscal year 2005. To lay the foundation for a sustainable response, in FY2006 PEPFAR supported training or retraining of approximately 143,000 individuals in the focus countries to care for OVC.

The following are just a few other examples of how USAID is working with host nations and non-governmental organizations to support services for OVCs:

- In Zimbabwe, the STRIVE program takes a comprehensive approach to addressing orphans' multiple needs, focusing on community-led efforts to provide care. The program, designed to develop effective and sustainable models for supporting orphans and vulnerable children, reaches out to children through eleven international non-governmental and local community-based organizations.
- With HIV/AIDS funds and Food for Peace Title II food resources, Catholic Relief Services provided nutrition and HIV/AIDS prevention education, food distribution, and psychosocial support and counseling to 20,000 children orphaned or made vulnerable from HIV/AIDS in Kenya.
- In Peru, Project HOPE worked in health education in the Huallaga Valley Region of Peru's Amazon Basin, where years of political, social, and economic upheaval, together with geographic isolation from Peru's urban centers, have conspired to create an environment in which health and general living

conditions are grim. HOPE/Peru worked with community health workers to reduce child malnutrition from 55 to 37 percent in an area of Peru where guerrilla fighting exacerbated already high levels of poverty and child mortality.

- In fiscal year 2007, Emergency Plan funding for treatment and care services for OVCs totaled more than \$288.9 million in the focus countries (including approximately \$63 million for pediatric AIDS) – approximately 10.2 percent of prevention, treatment, and care resources (approximately 9.2 percent when funding for pediatric AIDS is excluded).

For more information on resources and programs from the U.S. Agency for International Development, go to www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/fbci/.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognizes the important role that faith-based and community organizations play in helping us to better serve those in need. Through our partnership and grant opportunities, USDA welcomes faith-based and community groups as important partners in our domestic food and nutrition programs, international food aid programs, and rural development opportunities.

For example, USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) depends upon its partnerships with faith-based and community organizations to make its food and nutrition programs more effective. The mission of FNS is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people with access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence. FNS's domestic nutrition assistance programs serve one in five Americans over the course of a year.

The following are just a few of the FNS programs aimed at providing food and nutrition to children:

Child and Adult Care Food Program

Through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, nutritious meals and snacks are served to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. The program also provides meals to children who reside in homeless shelters, and snacks to youths who participate in after-school care programs.

The Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program ensures that children in low-income areas continue to have access to nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. Faith-based and community organizations that conduct regularly scheduled programs for children from areas in which poor economic conditions exist are especially encouraged to apply to participate in the program.

The National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program

The National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to more than 26 million children each school day. In addition, the Afterschool Snack Program, run through the National School Lunch Program reimburses organizations for snacks served to children, through 18 years of age, in after-school educational and enrichment programs. After-school snacks give children a nutritional boost and draw them into supervised activities that are safe, fun and filled with learning opportunities.

To learn more about FNS programs that benefit children in need, please visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/fbco/children.htm>. And if you would like to learn more on how faith-based and community organizations can partner with USDA, please visit <http://www.usda.gov/fbci/>.

ADDITIONAL FEDERAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. Each year, HHS administers more grant dollars than all other federal agencies combined—distributing 60% of all federal dollars awarded. With programs covering a wide spectrum of activities, there are many opportunities for States, Tribes, local governments, and faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) to partner with HHS.

For more information on HHS, please visit www.hhs.gov/fbci

The Children's Bureau

Operating within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at HHS, The Children's Bureau seeks to provide for the safety, permanency and well being of children through leadership, support for necessary services, and productive partnerships with States, Tribes, and communities.

With an annual budget of over \$7 billion, the Children's Bureau works with State and local agencies to develop programs that focus on preventing the abuse of children in troubled families, protecting children from abuse, and finding permanent placements for those who cannot safely return to their homes.

For more information on the Children's Bureau, please visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/index.htm>

AdoptUsKids.org

Through a 5-year cooperative agreement, the Children's Bureau funds the Collaboration to AdoptUsKids to provide a variety of related programs, services, and activities to support and recruit foster and adoptive families for children in foster care. The national adoption photo listing website, www.adoptuskids.org, is

one of the most visible AdoptUsKids activities and is a means for matching children in foster care who are waiting for adoption with families seeking to adopt, no matter where they live. Launched by President Bush at a White House ceremony in 2002, the website has featured more than 15,400 children and youth on the photo listing site and over 8,500 have been placed with prospective adoptive families; more than 13,000 prospective adoptive families have registered. For more information on AdoptUsKids, please visit www.adoptuskids.org

Adoption Opportunities

The Adoption Opportunities program provides discretionary funds for projects designed to eliminate barriers to adoption and help find permanent families for children who would benefit from adoption, particularly children with special needs.

Grantees of this program develop collaboration strategies and models to increase the number of adoptions within the child welfare system and to provide innovative services and tests of new service delivery models to strengthen families who have adopted children. Funded projects have assisted with child welfare services' efforts to achieve permanency for children in the foster care system and have focused on assisting States to improve their ability to meet the needs of the rising numbers of children waiting for permanent families.

For more information on Adoption Opportunities, please visit http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/programs_fund/discretionary/adopt_opportunity.htm

Throughout the course of the Administration, HHS has partnered with grassroots organizations across the country to advance these efforts including the following:

- *Adoption Exchange Association, Inc.* (Baltimore, MD)
- *Children's Home & Aid Society of Illinois* (Rockford, IL)
- *Harmony Adoptions of Tennessee, Inc.* (Maryville, TN)
- *Spaulding for Children* (Houston, TX)

- *Spaulding for Children* (Southfield, MI) (National)
- *Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota* (Sioux Falls, SD)
- *Harmony Adoptions of Tennessee, Inc* (Maryville, TN)
- *Latino Family Institute, Inc* (West Covina, CA)
- *National Council for Adoption* (Alexandria, VA)
- *Arizona's Children Association* (Tucson, AZ)
- *Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau* (Shaker Heights, OH)
- *New York Council on Adoptable Children* (New York, NY)
- *Family Builders by Adoption* (Oakland, CA)
- *Homes for Black Children* (Detroit, MI)
- *Kidsave International, Inc.* (Washington, DC)
- *Bethany Christian Services* (Grand Rapids, MI)
- *Adoptions Unlimited, Inc.* (Chicago, IL)
- *Child and Family Services of Tennessee* (Knoxville, TN)
- *You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption and Permanency Movement, Inc.* (Brooklyn, NY)
- *Adoption Network Cleveland* (Cleveland, OH)
- *Adoption Resource of Wisconsin* (Milwaukee, WI)
- *Bethany Christian Services* (Grand Rapids, MI)
- *Bethany Christian Services, Inc.* (Atlanta, GA)
- *Child & Family Services of NH* (Manchester, NH)
- *Children's Home Society of Washington* (Seattle, WA)
- *Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families* (Louisville, CO)
- *Consortium for Children* (San Rafael, CA)
- *DePelchin Children's Center* (Houston, TX)
- *National Indian Child Welfare Association* (Portland, OR)
- *Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute, Inc.* (Morganton, NC)
- *You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption Permanency Movement, Inc.* (Brooklyn, NY)
- *Another Choice for Black Children, Inc.* (Charlotte, NC)
- *Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau* (Shaker Heights, OH)
- *Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Inc.* (Greensboro, NC)

- *Independent Adoption Center, Inc.* (Contra Costa, CA)
- *Lund Family Center* (Burlington, VT)
- *Northeast Ohio Adoption Services* (Warren, OH)
- *Professional Association of Treatment Homes, Inc.* (St. Paul, MN)
- *Spaulding for Children* (Houston, TX)
- *The Adoption Exchange* (Aurora, CO)
- *Virginia One Church One Child* (Richmond, VA)

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) is the second largest of the 15 Cabinet departments and operates nationwide programs for health care, financial assistance and burial benefits and offers a wide variety of programs and services for the nation's 24.3 million veterans. VA has 153 hospitals, 881 ambulatory care and community-based outpatient clinics, 207 Vet Centers, 136 nursing homes, 45 residential rehabilitation treatment programs, 92 comprehensive home care programs, 57 regional offices and 124 national cemeteries.

VA has three programs that provide benefits to the eligible surviving children of veterans; Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension Benefits and Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC):

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a military service member who died while on active duty, or veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, or veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling

Death Pension Benefits:

Death Pension is a needs based benefit paid to an unwearied surviving spouse, or an unmarried child of a deceased wartime veteran.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA):

Dependents' Educational Assistance provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training.

For More Information, Call Toll-Free
1-800-827-1000 or Visit VA's Web Site at www.va.gov.

U.S. Department of State

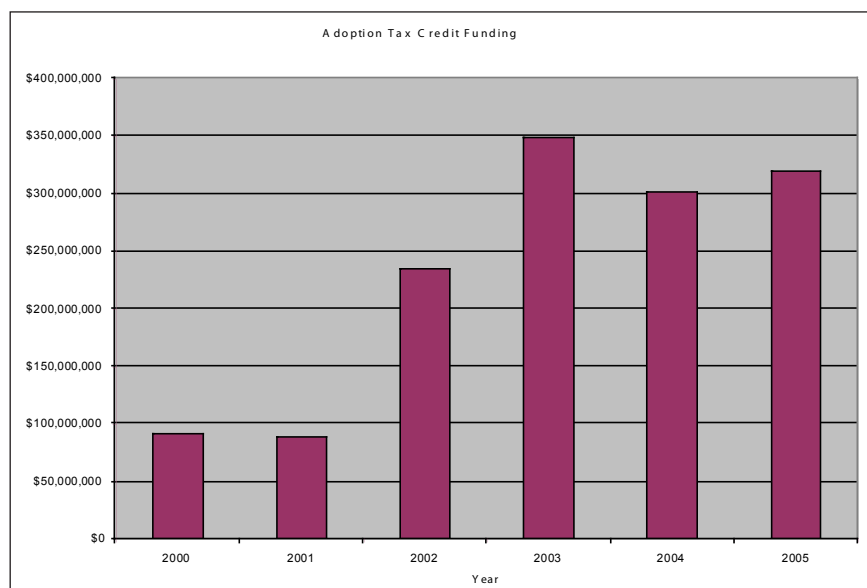
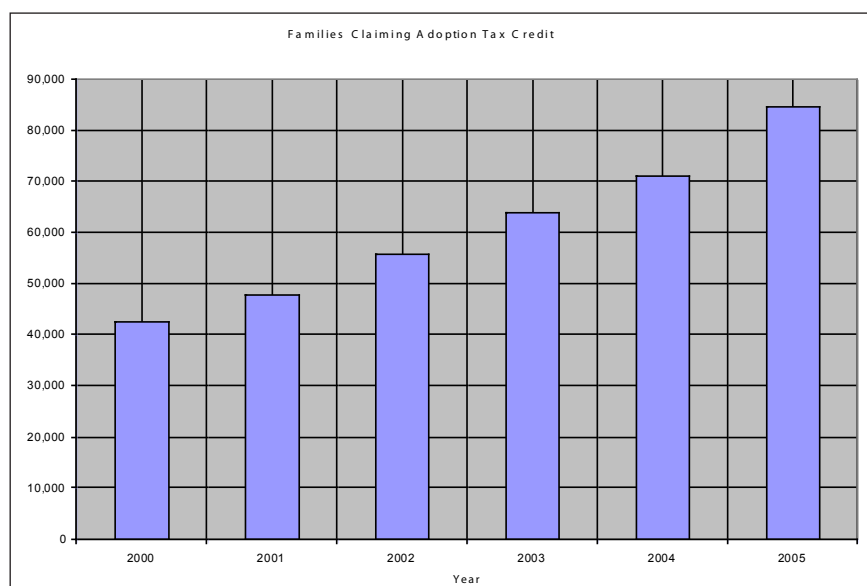
The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) is on the front lines of preserving families strained by conflict and extreme poverty. In 2007, PRM provided over \$127 million for programs directed at refugee women and children around the world. Over \$8 million of this funding went towards programs that work with schools and communities to raise awareness, programs that provide medical and other services

to survivors, and programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including a program that aims to stop the practice of female genital mutilation. This funding also includes a \$39 million contribution to the UNHCR/UNICEF Joint Appeal to Provide Educational Opportunities for Iraqi Children in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, helping over 150,000 Iraqi children attend school; a \$3 million contribution to UNICEF for education, health and nutrition programs for Sudanese refugees in Chad; and numerous large and small programs through NGO and IO partners that rebuild schools, provide textbooks, support sports programs and provide child care. In addition, PRM supports UNHCR's Global Operations activities, with specific earmarks for key global priorities such as refugee women, children and community development, health (including HIV/AIDS) and refugee registration. PRM also supports UNHCR protection staffing initiatives which focus on the most vulnerable members of the refugee populations.

Federal Adoption Tax Credit

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001 (EGTRA) expanded the adoption tax credit by increasing the expense limit from \$5,000 per adoption (\$6,000 for foster care adoptions) to \$10,000 in 2002. EGTRA also raised the phase-out range from

\$75,000-\$115,000 of income to \$150,000-\$190,000 in 2002. Both the expense limit and the phase-out income limit are indexed for inflation. In addition, beginning in 2003, families adopting a child from foster care are able to access the adoption tax credit without needing to document expenses.



FEATURED FAMILIES

The Cooper Family

The Coopers are a family of young ladies from around the U.S. that needed support and permanency to guide them through their life journey. Before adopting, Dawn Cooper had just such a vision for how she could provide this structure for her adopted daughters. However, it has been the struggles, trials, and hardships over the years that have brought this vision to fruition and helped the Coopers to blossom into a supportive, committed, and nonjudgmental family grounded in love for each other.

With this foundation, the Cooper family is able to serve others by getting involved in the needs of their community. Serving and cooperating together as a family has reinforced a deep family identity and bond among the Coopers. Each of the Cooper daughters experienced a time when they thought their life meant nothing. That has changed, and now they are thankful for the opportunity to invest themselves positively in the lives of others.

The Long Family

Victor and Rhonda Long have been married 17 years, and started out wanting a big family. However, after two miscarriages and a disabling motorcycle crash, the

Longs were drawn toward the possibility of foster care or adoption, and began attending adoption training in 1995. In 2001, the Longs adopted Dennis and Felicia through the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. In 2003, Brandy joined the Longs through AdoptUsKids. All three of the Long children decided that Victor and Rhonda were their family at the first meeting. The Long children are living proof that adoption works; that adopted children will thrive under permanence, stability, and guidance. "We are blessed," say the Longs.

The Ramirez Family

The Ramirez's are a family of six from Ocala Florida. In 1995, Carlos and Stephanie Ramirez decided to take steps to grow their family through adoption. Throughout a process of training and research, they decided to adopt a child from Ukraine. After a year of preparation and waiting, Carlos and Stephanie traveled to Zeparozia, Ukraine in November of 2004, and returned to the United States with their daughter Sophia in December. Today, Sophia is fourteen and a bright, loving and thriving teenager. At school, she has earned placement in honors classes, including English. The Ramirez family considers themselves blessed with a great agency and a perfect new daughter and sister, far beyond what they had prayed and hoped.

BIOGRAPHIES

COMPASSION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

■ MARC ANDREAS

*Vice President of Marketing
Bethany Christian Services*

Marc Andreas is the Vice-President of marketing and communications for Bethany Christian Services. Marc holds an MBA from the University of Iowa and has led Bethany's marketing efforts for nearly 3 years. Marc has extensive experience in a wide range of promotional areas, including Internet marketing, print production, TV/radio advertising, and public relations. He is also the co-leader of Bethany's national Strategic Management Project Team. Marc also has 10 years of marketing experience with Pella Corporation (maker of Pella windows and doors). Marc and his wife, Shelby, live in Grandville, Michigan, and have been married for 12 years. They are the proud parents of 4 children (3 biological and 1 adopted from Texas). Marc and his wife are currently in the process of adopting 2 children from Haiti and expect to travel to pick them up in late 2007.

■ JULIUS COLES

*President
Africare*

Julius E. Coles is the President of Africare. Before assuming this position, he was the Director of Morehouse College's Andrew Young Center for International Affairs from 1997 - 2002. He served as the Director of Howard University's Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center from 1994 - 1997. Most of Mr. Coles' career of some twenty-eight years in the foreign service has been spent as a senior official with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). While with USAID, Mr. Coles was Mission Director in Swaziland and Senegal and served in Vietnam, Morocco, Liberia, Nepal and Washington, D.C. He received a B.A. from Morehouse College

(1964) and a Masters of Public Affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (1966). He has also studied at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, the U.S. Department of State Foreign Institute's Senior Seminar, the Federal Executive Institute and Institute de Français. Mr. Coles retired from the U.S. Government's Foreign Service in 1994 with the rank of Career Minister. He received numerous awards including the Morehouse College National Alumnus of the Year for 2006, Amistad Achievement Award (2003), *Distinguished Career Service Award* (1995), the *Presidential Meritorious Service Award* (1983-1986), and was decorated by President Abdou Diouf of Senegal as *Commander in the Order of Lion* (1994). Mr. Coles is a member of the Boards of InterAction, L'Alliance Française de Washington, DC, Andrew Young Center for International Affairs at Morehouse College and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. In addition, he was elected as a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Rotary Club of Atlanta, Council on Foreign Relations, the Bretton Woods Committee and has been appointed as a member of the UNESCO International Commission on the Gorée Memorial.

■ DEBORAH DORTZBACH

*Director of Health and Social Development
World Relief*

Deborah Dortzbach has been involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and care since 1988 when AIDS was surfacing among her friends in the urban poor communities of Nairobi, where she worked as a public health nurse educator. Witnessing the impact of AIDS on the family and community motivated her to more study and a search for strategic intervention that culminated in guiding churches across the world to engage in addressing the AIDS crisis. Much of her work in AIDS—spanning nearly two decades—is woven into the book

she co-authored with Dr. Meredith Long, *The AIDS Crisis: What We Can Do*, published by Intervarsity Press in November, 2006.

Deborah is the Director of Health and Social Development for World Relief, an organization headquartered in Baltimore that is serving churches and communities worldwide in alleviating suffering and poverty through programs in microfinance, HIV/AIDS, maternal child health, disaster response and refugee and immigration services. Deborah provides strategic leadership to AIDS programs in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. The programs equip local churches to provide AIDS awareness in communities, abstinence-based sex education for youth, pastoral counseling, orphan support, and home care for AIDS-affected families. She was invited to represent faith-based organizations in their global engagement in HIV/AIDS and give testimony to the Senate's subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension in 2002. In 2005, Deborah spoke on behalf of World Relief when they hosted First Lady Laura Bush in Kigali, Rwanda, where Bush visited the home and church of Tatu, a young girl orphaned by AIDS.

Deborah is a graduate of Columbia University and Emory University and holds Master's Degrees in Nursing (Child Health) and Public Health (International Health). She and her husband, Karl, enjoy their three adult children and six grandchildren.

Contact information: Deborah Dortzbach, World Relief, 7 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21202; office tel: 443-451-1927; email: ddortzbach@wr.org.

■ DR. SHAREN FORD

Manager for Permanency Services, Colorado

Department of Human Services

President, National Association of State Adoption Programs

Sharen Ford, Ph.D., is the Manager for Permanency Services for the Colorado Department of Human Services in the Division of Child Welfare Services. She has a comprehensive work history there for 23 years. She oversees six programmatic areas including the Adoption Program and supervises a team of professional staff.

Dr. Ford is the current President of the National Association of State Adoption Programs (NASAP) and serves on the executive committee of the Association of Administrators for the Interstate Compact on Adoption Medical Assistance (AAICAMA).

She is married to Roy, is a mom and a grandmother.

■ MARTA GABRE-TSADICK

Executive Director

Project Mercy

Marta Gabre-Tsadick, the first woman Senator of Ethiopia under the late Emperor Haile-Selassie, was born and raised in Ethiopia. Marta came to the USA in 1954 to attend Adams State College in Colorado where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. She returned to Ethiopia in 1958 and began her service in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

As a former member of the Haile-Selassie government in Ethiopia, Marta and her family were sought after by the communists and thus were forced to flee the country shortly after the take-over. The remarkable story of their escape is told in her book, *SHELTERED BY THE KING*.

In 1977, Marta Gabre-Tsadick, and her husband, Demeke Tekle-Wold came to America after being sponsored by an Indiana church. Shortly thereafter, they and two dear friends, Pastor Charles and Fran Dickinson established Project Mercy - an International Emergency Relief and Community Development Ministry which is based in Fort Wayne, Indiana. For two decades, Project Mercy has provided emergency relief aid, educational assistance, and aid to refugees. Project Mercy is a registered 501 (c) (3) organization under the leadership of a seven-person board.

Author, challenging speaker, businesswoman, mother and grandmother, Marta is an impassioned and knowledgeable advocate for the destitute.

■ HENRY LOZANO

*Deputy Assistant to the President and Director
USA Freedom Corps*

Henry C. Lozano, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps, encourages citizens to serve a cause greater than themselves and work to strengthen the culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility throughout our nation. USA Freedom Corps was established to build on the countless acts of service, sacrifice, and generosity that followed September the 11, 2001.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Lozano served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Californians for Drug-Free Youth, a non-profit organization working to bring parents, youth, schools, and communities together to create and support safe and healthy communities. From 2003 until this year, Mr. Lozano served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Lozano served as Executive Director of the Santa Ynez Valley Network for Drug-Free Youth.

■ THOMAS L. LUKASIK

*Executive Director
4Kids of South Florida*

In 1994, Tom left the corporate world to begin a new career working with foster care and adoption. He and his wife, Linda, became live-in house parents for six foster children who were considered Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED), and served in that capacity for nearly three years. Tom moved on to become a director of group homes for teens, while also volunteering as a Guardian Ad Litem for five years. Tom joined the staff of 4KIDS in August, 2000, and has been pioneering its efforts ever since. Tom and Linda are still licensed foster parents, and take children in for respite and emergency situations.

Tom's life-long goal is to bring the Church Community together to take care of all children who are in the foster care system.

■ BRIAN LUWIS

*CEO
America World*

Brian Luwis was born in Washington, D.C. and has lived in Metropolitan area for over 40 years. After attending St. Alban's School in Washington, D.C., Brian graduated with honors from the Catholic University of America with a Bachelor of Architecture. He also has a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management from Eastern University. Brian and his wife, Renee, adopted their first daughter, Fei, in 1994 and shortly thereafter founded America World Adoption. Brian remains involved with his family's real-estate development business for "tent making" purposes—but his passion is to help build Christian families through God's plan of adoption. Brian believes adoption is designed by God as a "natural" process, like birth, and not as a "Plan B". Through the Spirit of Adoption seminars he and his

wife have been helping thousands of families know that adoption is a divine model for creating families. Brian and Renee have five children by adoption and birth: Fei is 13, Gwenn is 11, Sophie is 10, Abel is 6 and Cecile is 3.

■ JEDD MEDEFIND

*Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director
White House Office of Faith-Based and Community
Initiatives*

Jedd Medefind serves as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Prior to his current role, he held the post of Director for the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the US Department of Labor.

Previously, he filled a range of posts in the California State Legislature, most recently as Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Tim Leslie. From 2000 to 2004, Medefind created and helped to lead the California Community Renewal Project, which provides resources and training to organizations that build up California's struggling urban neighborhoods.

Medefind has spent time in more than twenty-five countries and has served with organizations in Guatemala, Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Lesotho and other countries. He also worked for Price-Waterhouse in Moscow.

The book Four Souls, which he wrote with three close friends, explores questions of faith, poverty, and community amidst a journey around the globe. His most recent book, The Revolutionary Communicator, examines the grace and greatness of Jesus' approach to communication and leadership.

Jedd and his wife Rachel live in Washington, DC with their two daughters, Siena and Marin.

■ CHRIS PADBURY

*Executive Director
Project 1.27*

Chris Padbury is a former US Air Force pilot and is currently the father of five wonderful adopted children. He received his undergraduate degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a degree in Christian Ministries from Colorado Christian University and his Masters degree from the University of Colorado. Major Padbury served 12 years in active duty status and is now in the Air Force Reserves. While in the Air Force Chris served as a C-130 pilot, an instructor pilot, and a staff planner for U.S. Northern Command for its support of the space shuttle program. He gave up his wings to become the Executive Director for Project 1.27. Chris and his wife Sarah have adopted through every means possible in the U.S. including private agencies (international and domestic), an adoption lawyer outside the state and most recently through the Colorado Foster care system. In July 2004, Chris assisted Pastor Robert Gelinis in creating and implementing Project 1.27. This position allows him to act as a bridge between government and communities of faith to impact the lives of families through foster care adoption.

■ MELISSA PARDUE

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

Melissa Pardue is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Before coming to HHS, Melissa was an Associate Director for the White House Domestic Policy Council, where she was responsible for the housing and human services portfolio, in addition to working on international issues such as global HIV/AIDS, human traffick-

ing, and the UN. Prior to service in the Bush Administration, Melissa was a policy analyst for welfare, poverty, and family issues at The Heritage Foundation. She has written numerous articles, papers, and editorials, and has conducted over two dozen television, radio, and print media interviews on welfare and family issues.

In addition to policy experience, Melissa has spent several years in field work including drug and alcohol rehabilitation counseling, hospital case management, and child welfare accreditation efforts.

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Melissa earned a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma, and received her Master's degree in social policy from Columbia University. Melissa and her husband Joel currently reside in Falls Church, Virginia.

■ PAUL PENNINGTON

*Co-Founder, Hope for Orphans at FamilyLife Today
Chairman, Christian Alliance for Orphans*

Paul and Robin Pennington are co-founders of Hope for Orphans which merged with FamilyLife, a subsidiary of Campus Crusade for Christ, in 2003. FamilyLife's Hope for Orphans is an advocacy ministry that provides adoption education for Christians nationally and is also a leader in developing content and strategies to help local churches launch orphans ministry as an ongoing ministry of the church.

Paul also serves as the Chairman of the Christian Alliance for Orphans which has brought together over 75 Christian agencies, organizations, churches, foundations and media advocates for the purpose of helping churches engage in the care of orphans and waiting children in the U.S. and around the world. Paul is the co-author of the book *Launching An Orphans Ministry in Your Church*, published by FamilyLife Publishing. Paul has led adoption workshops across the United States and is a national speaker on adoption and orphans ministry issues.

Paul and Robin, married 28 years, have six children, seven grandchildren and one on the way. Five of their children and two of their grandchildren were adopted.

■ RITA SORONEN

*Executive Director
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption*

For more than 30 years, Rita Soronen has worked on behalf of abused, neglected and vulnerable children. A graduate of the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky and a fellow of the Jefferson Fellowship for Executive Leadership in Columbus, Ohio, Ms. Soronen has provided leadership for local, state and national efforts working to improve the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, while striving to assure safe, nurturing and permanent homes for North America's children.

As Executive Director with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Ms. Soronen brings her commitment to assuring that each of the 140,000 waiting children in the United States and Canada's foster care systems, who have been freed for adoption, will have tenacious and indefatigable efforts on their behalf for successful placement with loving adoptive families.

The Foundation, created by Dave Thomas, an adopted child and founder of Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers, is the national voice for children in foster care waiting for adoptive homes, and provides resources to organizations that effectively and efficiently move children from foster care into permanent families. Under Ms. Soronen's leadership in just five years, the Foundation has significantly increased its grant-making and awareness commitments, while developing signature initiatives that underscore and act on the urgency of the issue. For example, in 2006, the Foundation dedicated more than \$5 million to grants and national awareness activities. Wendy's Wonderful Kids, Adoption-Friendly Workplace, National Adoption Day and national adoption attitudes research are key initiatives

under Ms. Soronen's executive directorship. In two years, the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program alone has grown from seven pilot site grants to nearly 100 active sites in all fifty states, the District of Columbia and three provinces in Canada dedicated to aggressively and effectively moving children from foster care to permanent families.

In her role, Ms. Soronen works with the North American Wendy's system of more than 6,000 franchisees and company stores, national adoption partners, corporations, the media, policymakers and the general public to accomplish the mission.

Immediately prior to accepting the position at the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Ms. Soronen served as the Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Franklin County, a partner in the national network of more than 900 CASA programs, and one of the 20 largest urban programs in the nation. During that time, she also served for five years as the President of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio CASA/GAL Association. During her tenure with CASA, she was instrumental in the passage of specialty license plate legislation benefiting CASA programs throughout Ohio, as well as the design and implementation of model program standards assuring consistent application of effective advocacy for children involved in court proceedings at the local and state levels.

Ms. Soronen serves on the Board of Trustees of the National CASA Association (Seattle) and the Board of Directors of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Inc. (Washington, D.C.). Ms. Soronen is a recipient of the National CASA Association Kappa Alpha Theta Program Director of the Year Award, the Ohio CASA/GAL Association Statewide Leadership Award and the Angels in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, resulting from a nomination by Congresswoman Deborah Pryce.

Ms. Soronen resides in Columbus, Ohio and has two daughters, ages 20 and 25.

■ DAN SCHNEIDER

Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Daniel C. Schneider, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families, assumed the acting Assistant Secretary role effective April 9th, 2007. Dan joined the Department in March 2005 and has been a key member of the senior leadership team at ACF.

Daniel Schneider was the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. With a \$49 billion budget, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is responsible for programs that promote the social and economic well-being of America's children, youth and families.

Prior to his appointment at ACF, Mr. Schneider served as the General Counsel at the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, and programs in the humanities. During his NEH appointment he was detailed for one year to the White House Office of Presidential Personnel where he served as the Deputy Associate Director. Mr. Schneider's first appointment in the executive branch was at the U.S. Department of Labor where he served as the White House Liaison.

Prior to joining the Bush administration he worked for four years on Capitol Hill as the Chief of Staff to U.S. Congressman James R. Ryun.

Mr. Schneider came to Washington, D.C. from New York City where he practiced law with a New York-based international law firm. Before commencing his legal practice he lived in the People's Republic of China where he was the Commercial Attaché for the Kansas Commerce Department.

He holds a law degree from Columbia University and two undergraduate degrees from the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

■ PATRICK TUTTLE

Vice President

All Kids Can Learn International

After his daughter's car wreck in 2000, Patrick Tuttle's family was served and cared for by their church members. Several of these were young people who had participated in a church orphanage project in Namibia, and they stood out to Tuttle as having a greater degree of caring and compassion than others. The dramatic, sincere difference in their lives prompted Mr. Tuttle to become involved by serving in his church's orphanage ministry. When an opportunity opened up to build an orphanage in Zambia, Tuttle and another coworker founded a separate organization in order to plant a self-sustaining Village of Hope for 250 orphans ages three to seven. The Zambia Village of Hope very recently welcomed the first five of a projected 250 children. Tuttle says, "It has been a blessing way beyond our wildest expectations." As a business school graduate, Tuttle also remains active within the finance industry of North Texas and has founded several mortgage and title businesses.

■ EDUARDO VERÁSTEGUI

Actor, Producer and Adoption Advocate

"Bella" and Metanoia Films

Born and raised in Xicotencatl, Tamaulipas, a tiny village in Northern Mexico, Verástegui was the son of a sugar cane farmer. At the age of 18, he left his small town and headed to Mexico City to pursue a career in entertainment. Twelve years later, Eduardo had toured the world as a singer in the Mexican pop sensation Kairo and as an acclaimed solo recording artist, performing sold-out concerts in over 13 countries.

Starring in five highly-rated "telenovelas" (Spanish soap operas) for Televisa (broadcast in over 19 countries), he has also been featured on hundreds of international magazine covers including *People En Español* which voted him one of 50 Most Beautiful People. Verástegui has appeared opposite Jennifer Lopez in one of her most famous music videos "Ain't it funny!" as well as in an international television commercial promoting her self-titled commercial fragrances.

In 2001, Verástegui landed the starring role in 20th Century Fox's "Chasing Papi," the studio's first ever Latino-driven film. He has also appeared in such primetime television series as "CSI:Miami," "Charmed," and "Karen Cisco."

In 2004, following an inspiration to transform his image, Verástegui left his agency and management and teamed with Monteverde and Severino to form Metanoia Films.

■ KEN YAMASHITA

Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS, U.S. Agency for International Development
Special Advisor for Assistance to Orphans and other Vulnerable Children

Dr. S. Ken Yamashita is the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS within the Bureau for Global Health. He simultaneously holds the position of USG Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, an appointment designated by the USAID Administrator through delegated authority of the U.S. Secretary of State. Dr. Yamashita assumed both roles on July 17, 2006.

He is responsible for leading the agency's implementation of HIV/AIDS programs under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, as well as providing strategic oversight of the U.S. Government's approach to addressing the key needs of orphans and vulnerable children in developing countries.

Dr. Yamashita brings more than 20 years of development experience covering more than 25 countries across all major regions of the world.

Prior to joining the Office of HIV/AIDS, Dr. Yamashita was Mission Director of the USAID Mission in Kosovo, a position he held for two years. Prior to his July 2004 appointment in Kosovo, he served as Deputy Mission Director and as Interim Mission Director of the USAID Mission in Lima, Peru. Since joining USAID in 1993, Dr. Yamashita has served in Ecuador and in South Africa as Director of the Office of Health in each of those countries.

This marks Dr. Yamashita's second tour in USAID's Washington, D.C. headquarters. Previously, he served as Chief of the Health Policy Division, within the Global Center for Health, Population, and Nutrition.

Prior to joining USAID, Dr. Yamashita worked for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (assigned to USAID/Ecuador), the Futures Group -- a consulting firm specializing in population and economic development modeling -- and the United Nations.

He received a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University. He is married and has two children.

